

UNAPPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
March 24, 2008

TIME The meeting convened at 6:40 P.M.

PRESENT Chair Lord-Hausman, Commissioners Berger, Longley-Cook, and Fort.

ABSENT Vice-Chair Moore, Commissioners Kirola, Robinson and Kreitz.

MINUTES

The February 25, 2008 minutes were approved with the following corrections: under Oral Communications, item number two, Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that she attended and represented the Commission at the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families monthly meeting; and under item number four, there was one grammatical correction.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There was no written communication.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2008/09 Paratransit Service (Gail Payne, Public Works):

Gail Payne, Transportation Coordinator, presented information regarding the annual program review of the City's Paratransit service. Jackie Krause, Mastick Sr. Center Manager, is working with PW during this review period. Ms. Payne reviewed the services offered, objectives, consumer satisfaction survey results, needs identification, planning, marketing and overall funding processes.

Commissioner Berger asked if there were costs associated with medical return trips, to which Ms. Payne responded, there is no additional cost.

Commissioner Longley-Cook asked if the taxi service is available to individuals younger than 50 years of age, to which Ms. Payne responded no, as they had just reduced the age limit from 75 to 50 years of age in an effort to increase ridership.

Commissioner Berger asked why out of 100 registrants, only 32 responded to the survey, to which Ms. Payne replied that these responses are not significantly statistical results and they are looking at other ways to increase responses with the forthcoming Consumer Survey.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked how are the surveys being conducted, to which Ms. Payne replied that (paper) copies are being mailed to homes.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked if taxi company training included sensitivity to the disabled, to which Ms. Payne responded yes, but it takes time based on cultural and generation issues.

Commissioner Fort asked if there had been any feedback from people with disabilities with guide dogs, to which Ms. Payne responded it was not a question included in the previous survey, but will be added within the forthcoming one.

Commissioner Berger asked how many vehicles are there in the program, are the cabs big enough for motorized scooters and are there any additional charges for these type of items? Ms. Payne replied that there are approximately six accessible vans and that there is an extra \$20.00 charge for wheelchairs, however the City subsidizes that amount.

Chair Lord-Hausman requested an update in the fall regarding the outcome of the next survey and number of reported changes.

Ms. Payne thanked the Commission for their input.

2. Presentation Regarding New Accessible For-Sale Unit at Buena Vista Commons

(Dan Lachman, Executive Director, Alameda Development Corporation):

Mr. Dan Lachman discussed the current progress of the new affordable/accessible unit development. Mr. Lachman stated that the project is under construction and will be finished this summer. It is a joint venture with Habitat for Humanity East Bay and applicant selection will be conducted based on a lottery format and all individuals must qualify within the stated mandated income guidelines.

Commissioner Berger asked if any of the family members must be disabled, to which Mr. Lachman responded no, but one of the units is ADA accessible. There will be a separate lottery for that unit and the selected applicant will be required to provide proof of disability.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked if the downstairs bathroom was accessible, to which Mr. Lachman responded yes, both the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms are equally accessible.

Mr. Lachman requested that the Commission provide suggestions regarding community outreach and increased awareness of the project.

Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that they check with the Mastick Senior Center, Cardinal Point, Ministerial Association, publicity journals, fliers and posting of various ads.

Commissioner Berger suggested they advertise with the AUSD, College of Alameda, Red Cross, any fraternal organizations, the Food Bank, City channels 15 and 31, PSBA, WABA and Farmers' Market.

Commissioner Berger asked if City residency is a requirement, to which Mr. Lachman responded that preference is given to applicants who live or work in the City of Alameda.

Commissioner Berger asked if there are any future housing projects, to which Mr. Lachman replied it depends on availability of funding and location, as both HUD and the CIC have heavily subsidized the current project.

Mr. Lachman thanked the Commission for its input.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2007 CDI Accomplishments (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that she continues to update the draft list of accomplishments for future consideration by the Commission.

2. Path Between Crown & Washington Parks (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman stated the work is not yet complete per Dale Lillard, AR&PD Director, as they are waiting for the weather to improve. Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that she observed. That work had not yet begun.

3. Disability Parking at City Events (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that during key events, Public Works would provide accessible space and signs and that number will depend upon the event, as each requirement will be tailored for the event. There are approximately 15 major City events.

4. Commission Recruitment (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Chair Lord-Hausman announced that Commissioner Margaret Hakanson has resigned from the Commission as of February 2008.

Commissioner Berger asked if there was a leave of absence in the by-laws, to which Secretary Akil replied she would check and get back to the Commission.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

1. Secretary Akil reminded the Commissioners that the draft ADA Transition Plan would be presented to the Commission at the April 28, 2008 meeting, which would include discussion of the Commission's 2006 ADA recommendations. A printed version of the draft Plan would be available for review in several City offices prior to the meeting date. More information will be mailed to the Commission several weeks prior to the April meeting date.
2. Secretary Akil distributed a draft version of the letter prepared by Commissioner Berger, which addresses State Budget cuts to local agencies that provide preventive healthcare services currently offered by the County. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested that the letter be addressed to the Social Services Human Relations Board (SSHRB) as it is currently reviewing health care services in the City of Alameda.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Eric Pung and a group of students from San Francisco State University stated they wanted to shoot a film at Alameda Point about a disabled student. They were notified by Mike Hampen, PM Realty (representing on behalf of the City), that they would be required to take out a permit for such a project, which would cost around \$1,000.00. Mr. Pung stated that this is not a professional project, they are a crew between 15 to 20 people and there is no profit involved. They wanted to know if the CDI could offer any input on how they might proceed in light of the permit costs and other license agreement fees that would be imposed if filmed at Alameda Point.

Secretary Akil stated that Mr. Hampen's notification was proper, as all requests for use of City property or facilities at Alameda Point must be conducted by an agreement. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested they contact Sue Russell with DSD as she is the City staff person in charge of the Film Commission. The USS Hornet is also an option for the student-group.

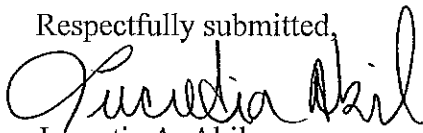
2. Commissioner Berger stated that she would like Public Works to require more accessible parking on Central Avenue between Oak and Walnut Streets for people attending performances at Kaufman Auditorium. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the Alameda Civic light Opera (ACLO) should write a letter to Public Works and the City Council for this request.
3. Commissioner Longley-Cook stated that the accessible button on the doors at City Hall at the Oak Street entrance is not working. Secretary Akil responded that she would inform the Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department of this issue.
4. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that there will be an update on the progress of a potential accessibility web-page to the City's website on the next CDI agenda.

5. Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the League of Women Voters is sponsoring a "Meet Your Public Officials" event on April 24, 2008, 5:30 to 7:30 P.M. at the Harbor Bay Community Center. Commission members will receive complimentary tickets in the mail.
6. Chair Lord-Hausman read information from Virendra Patel, Engineer in the Public Works Department, regarding an email from a visually impaired citizen regarding audible signals. The Chair indicated that she would request some feedback from PW regarding the citizens concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, April 28, 2008, at 6:30 P.M. in Room 360 at City Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lucretia Akil".

Lucretia A. Akil
Commission Secretary